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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Application: John R. Liddicoat et al.  
Serial No.: 09/760,222  
Filing Date: 01/12/2001  
For: TISSUE ANNULOPLASTY BAND AND APPARATUS  
AND METHOD FOR FASHIONING, SIZING AND  
IMPLANTING THE SAME  
Group Art Unit: 3738  
Examiner: William H. Matthews  
Attorney's Docket No.: VIA-14

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit documents and information which may be considered material to the examination of this application. These documents and information are listed on the accompanying forms.

Copy of document 1, which is listed on the accompanying Form PTO/SB/08A (substitute for Form PTO-1449), is enclosed herewith.

Applicants respectfully request that this document be fully considered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application and printed on any patent which may issue on this application. Applicants also respectfully request that a copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A (substitute for Form PTO-1449) (one page), submitted herewith, as considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned to the undersigned with the next communication.

It is believed that this disclosure complies with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. If for any reason the Examiner considers otherwise, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be contacted by the Examiner by telephone in order that any deficiencies may be expeditiously remedied.

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*A check in the amount of One Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$180.00) payable to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks also is enclosed herewith to cover the fee due in connection with this submission.*

The enclosed documents may have markings thereon. Applicants are not presently aware of the source of those markings, and no significance is meant to be attached thereto.

Please charge any additional fees due in connection with this submission, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0221. A duplicate copy of this submission is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

Thank you.

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May 4, 2004

(DATE OF DEPOSIT)

James A. Sheridan

(NAME OF ATTORNEY)

James A. Sheridan 5/4/04

(SIGNATURE)

May 4, 2004

(DATE OF SIGNATURE)

Respectfully submitted,

*James A. Sheridan 5/4/04*

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**Complete if Known**

<b>Application Number</b>	09/760,222
<b>Filing Date</b>	01/12/2001
<b>First Named Inventor</b>	John R. Liddicoat et al.
<b>Group Art Unit</b>	3738
<b>Examiner Name</b>	William H. Matthews
<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	VTA-14

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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Attorney Docket Number	VIA-14
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## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner  
Signature

Date  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

**Burden Hour Statement:** This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.